

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EURE-00 PM-03
SP-02 L-01 EB-04 INR-05 CIAE-00 IO-06 DODE-00
TRSE-00 ACDA-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 /059 W
-----003980 291518Z /53

O R 291459Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0196
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
7350 ABGP TEMPELHOF

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12468

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE NOTIFY EUR/CE ON RECEIPT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, BQG
SUBJECT: SOVIET CORRIDOR FLIGHT

REF: STATE 177698 DTG 282359Z JUL 77 (LIMDIS)

1. FRG BONN GROUP REP (VON ARNIM) INFORMED US TODAY OF
THE RESULTS THUS FAR FROM INQUIRIES MADE TO THE AIR
TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS REGARDING THE JULY 24 AEROFLOT
FLIGHT THROUGH THE CENTER CORRIDOR. HE SAID THAT THE
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ORIGINAL CHANGE OF ROUTE TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE PLANE
ENTERED GERMAN AIRSPACE SINCE IT ENTERED AT AACHEN
RATHER THAN NORDENEY, AN ISLAND OFF THE NORTH COAST.
THE PILOT CONTACTED DUSSELDORF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
(ATC), AND ASKED FOR A ROUTING TO SCHOENEFELD.
DUSSELDORF ATC ASKED BREMEN ATC, WHICH SAID THAT THE
NORMAL ROUTING (APPARENTLY USING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE

POLISH LOT FLIGHTS) WOULD BE VIA THE CENTER CORRIDOR.

2. BREMEN ATC ASSIGNED A ROUTE IN THE CENTER CORRIDOR AND ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE AIRCRAFT. BREMEN ATC CONTACTED BARTCC AND INFORMED BARTCC OF THE ESTIMATED FLIGHT TIME AND THE AEROFLOT PLANE'S CALL SIGN (SU 11912). BARTCC REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF THE CALL SIGN AND ALSO ASKED THAT BREMEN ATC DIRECT THE PLANE TO CONTACT BARTCC. BREMEN ATC CONTACTED THE PLANE, DID AS BARTCC REQUESTED, AND INFORMED BARTCC. THE PLANE DID NOT CONTACT BARTCC AND THE LATTER'S EFFORTS TO CONTACT THE PLANE WENT UNANSWERED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPORTANT POINT THAT IT APPEARS THE PLANE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THE CORRIDOR ROUTING BUT WAS ASSIGNED IT BY BREMEN ATC, VON ARNIM SAID THAT THE GERMANS WERE NOT ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THIS WAS WHAT HAPPENED BUT WERE "NINETY-FIVE PERCENT CERTAIN." THE UK EMBASSY TELLS US THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED INDEPENDENTLY, "FROM THE OLD-BOY AVIATION NETWORK," THAT IT APPEARS THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED.

4. COMMENT: THIS ADDED INFORMATION, IF TRUE, PUTS A NEW AND LESS SINISTER LIGHT ON THE PLANE'S USE OF THE CORRIDOR. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A STATEMENT IN BASC (WHICH HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED BY ALL THREE ALLIED CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPITALS) SHOULD BE MADE AND THAT AN FRG APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS MAY BE WARRANTED. THE DECISION ON THE LATTER POINT CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL ALL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN. AT A MINIMUM, IT APPEARS THAT THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT VIOLATED THE APPROVED CLEARANCE BY ENTERING GERMAN AIR SPACE BY A POINT OTHER THAN THAT WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED. IT ALSO APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT DUSSELDORF ATC IMPROPERLY AUTHORIZED IT TO CONTINUE INTO GERMANY ON THE REVISED ROUTING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN12468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770272-0851
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977076/aaaaaesytel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2838d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 177698
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1869235
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET CORRIDOR FLIGHT
TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, BQG
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2838d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009